

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:                      Prior Group Art Unit: 3629  
Mitsuaki OSHIMA et al.                      Prior Examiner: Thomas A. Dixon  
Serial No.: Rule 1.53(b) Cont. of  
                 SN 10/418,088 filed 4/18/03

Filed: March 26, 2004

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449.

The listed references were cited during prosecution of patent application Serial No. 10/418,088 filed April 18, 2003; grandparent application Serial No. 09/475,228 filed December 30, 1999, now U.S. Patent 6,611,820; and great grandparent application Serial No. 08/849,468 filed June 9, 1997, now U.S. Patent 6,081,785, and copies of each reference may be found in the USPTO file for the parent, grandparent and great grandparent applications.

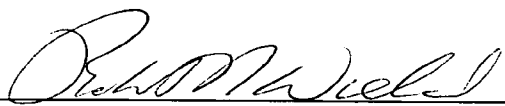
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The above information is presented so that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 C.F.R. §1.104(a) and §1.106(b) concerning the USPTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that these references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

March 26, 2004  
Date

  
Roger W. Parkhurst  
Registration No. 25,177  
Robert N. Wieland  
Registration No. 40,225

RWP:RNW/mhs

Attorney Docket No.: MEIC:011K

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.  
1421 Prince Street, Suite 210  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2805  
Telephone: (703) 739-0220

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)  
(Use several sheets if necessary)ATTY DOCKET NO.  
MEIC:011KSERIAL NO.  
R1.53(b) Cont. of SN 10/418,088 filed 4/18/03APPLICANT  
Mitsuaki OSHIMA et al.FILING DATE  
March 26, 2004GROUP  
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*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
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DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION NO YES

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EXAMINER

/Charles Agwumezie/

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